

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake City Caregiver Arraigned on Sexual Abuse Charge

DES MOINES, IOWA - Ronald Robert Heim II, 31, of Lake City has been arraigned in Calhoun County District Court on one count of sexual abuse in the third degree and one count of wanton neglect of a resident in a health care facility. At his arraignment, held December 2, 2002, Heim pled not guilty. A trial is scheduled for February 25, 2003.

According to the trial information, Heim is accused of sexually abusing a resident at Opportunity Living, an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded located in Lake City. Additionally, Heim is accused of acting in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical or mental welfare of the resident. The charges stem from an incident that occurred in February 2002 while Heim was employed as a residential counselor at the Lake City facility.

The charges were filed against Heim in November 2002 after the Lake City Police Department and the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) Health Facilities and Investigation Divisions conducted an investigation. DIA is responsible for regulating long-term care facilities in Iowa, including intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, as well as investigating allegations of resident abuse. If convicted of third degree sexual abuse, Heim faces a mandatory 10-year prison sentence, as well as a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000.